

FDD-PST

From: Bill Franke [mt_bfranke@mveca.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2000 3:36 PM
To: FDD-PST@FNS.USDA.GOV
Cc: cns_Sechler@ode.ohio.gov
Subject: BPR PROPOSAL

I have reviewed the BPR proposal and feel that many of the proposed changes are LONG overdue. Many of the current problems that were outlined in the plan are exactly the same problems that I have encountered with the commodity program in recent years.

For several years, I have viewed the commodity program as an outdated relic leftover from the cold war era. Do you know many kids who will eat prunes????

The current "processed" commodities available in Ohio are expensive to purchase, and require large amounts of freezer space at our central storage facility. We receive weekly deliveries from our grocery supplier-directly to the buildings. I rarely purchase "processed" items due to the hidden costs associated with distribution and storage.

Because we are a rural district spread over 406 square miles, distribution to our individual schools is also a problem. The commodities are delivered to a central site, then our staff must distribute them to individual buildings-adding time and labor expense to the products.

It is very important to me that we provide consistent food products to our kids. I wish the commodity program could be more "even" in product distribution. For example, we will have USDA beef patties for a while, then run out. So we switch to a purchased product for a while. Then we get more commodity patties back in. So we go back to the commodity product. And so on..... Very difficult for staff to adjust to pack size changes and variances in taste, quality, etc. As we bounce back and forth between Tyson and commodity chicken nuggets based on availability, students sometimes ask which chicken nugget are we having this week? For our district of 3,000 I may receive an offer of 4 or 5 cases of nuggets per month. This means that school "A" will use the commodity product, while school "B" uses a purchased product.

Wouldn't it be a whole lot easier to provide cash in lieu of actual food products?? School districts could buy the products that they want, when they need them.

Think of the money that could be saved by eliminating the bureaucracy that the program has become!

Thanks for Asking.....

Bill Franke
Food Service Director
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